

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072021  
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GEHAMILTON:LAR  
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN  
-----020212Z 022102 /66

P 012104Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 072021

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CGEN, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: PRESS RELATIONS

REF: KINSHASA 2911

1. THE ZAIRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO REFUSE ANY VISAS TO JOURNALISTS, SAYING THAT THE HOTELS ARE ALREADY OVERCROWDED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SAME RULES ARE ALSO BEING APPLIED IN EUROPE. UPI, FOR ONE, HAS BEEN TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO OBTAIN VISAS FOR TWO OF ITS JOURNALISTS AND IS NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH THE ZAIRIAN POSITION.

2. WE FIND THIS ZAIRIAN DECISION TO EXCLUDE JOURNALISTS PARTICULARLY ENLIGHTENING IN VIEW OF NGUZA'S COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT NECESSITY WAR-TIME CONDITIONS SOMETIMES CREATE FOR EXCLUDING ALL FOREIGN PRESS FROM A COUNTRY. WE THINK THE AMBASSADOR'S REJOINDER THAT SUCH WOULD PROBABLY BE VERY BEST WAY TO ASSURE A NEGATIVE PRESS MIGHT WELL BEAR REPEATING.

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3. ANY JOURNALISTS CONSIDERING LEAVING KINSHASA TEMPORARILY SHOULD PROBABLY BE WARNED TO CHECK THEIR VISA STATUS BEFORE DEPARTURE IF THEY PLAN TO RETURN.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, THE PRESS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, AO, CG, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009